

dollars and his constant focus on improving the lives of every resident of Tuolumne County.

Supervisor John Gray has truly been an asset to Tuolumne County in making it a more prosperous place for small businesses and a more desirable community for residents and visitors. It is my privilege to rise today in recognition of his distinguished public service.

RECOGNIZING MAJOR BRETT
KUHR

HON. JACK BERGMAN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 4, 2020

Mr. BERGMAN. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the tremendous work of Major Brett Kuhrt during his time as my office's legislative fellow. Major Kuhrt's leadership, work ethic, and commitment to public service have made him an integral part of our team.

In a year of unprecedented challenges, Brett has helped countless constituents in Michigan's First District with everything from navigating federal agencies to answering in-depth policy questions. He has shown a keen ability to tackle complex issues ranging from national security and defense to veterans and labor policy, crafting legislative policy and providing technical support to staff. Brett has also displayed a true willingness to serve in multiple capacities, always lending a hand when needed, no questions asked. He has set a high standard for future fellows and is an outstanding example of the best of the U.S. Air Force.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of myself and my staff, I thank Major Kuhrt for his exceptional work on behalf of Michigan's First Congressional District, and I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE LIFE
AND MEMORY OF CAPTAIN ROBERT
"BOBBY" ROCHA

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 4, 2020

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy and tired heart to honor the life of fire Captain Robert Joseph "Bobby" Rocha. Captain Rocha was a beloved, giving, vibrant soul, who lost his life last week after battling a COVID-19 infection he caught in the line of duty. Captain Rocha gave twenty-nine years of honorable service to the Kansas City Fire Department, and while his life was cut short, we must ensure that his memory is never forgotten.

Captain Rocha began at the fire department back in 1991, the same year I was sworn in as Mayor of Kansas City. Since then, I have watched from afar as he rose to the rank of Captain while earning the respect and admiration of his fellow firefighters and the city he protected. When the coronavirus hit, Captain Rocha knew the fire department was in for a long haul. During this past year, firefighters around the country have been assisting EMTs

more and more with pandemic-related emergency calls. In Kansas City, more than 200 members of the fire department have tested positive and seventy-three are currently infected. Captain Rocha likely came into contact with ten to fifteen COVID-19 each and every day while in uniform.

And then, the worst happened. In early November, Captain Rocha went into quarantine and was eventually hospitalized. He fought the disease valiantly, with the same vigor and verve with which he fought fires and saved lives for nearly three decades. But as Captain Rocha no doubt taught the young firefighters he trained, not all battles can be won; and on November 21st, Captain Rocha made his way toward eternal peace. He was sixty years old.

Captain Rocha will be remembered in the community as a courageous public servant and a generous leader. We will never forget his selflessness, his humility, or the twenty-nine years he dedicated to our safety and peace of mind. His team will remember him as a mentor who trained and prepared them for the risks that they faced every day on the job. His family and friends remember him as loving man with a good sense of humor and an incredible ability to inspire those around him. They remember Captain Rocha as man who would do anything for anybody. They say people looked up to him "like he was Hercules." And throughout his life, Captain Rocha always proved to be a decent, dependable man—a man who loved to ride his motorcycle, sing karaoke, and spend time with friends at the Outpost Bar and Grill.

"For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many," scripture tells us. This has been a year of loss, a year of painful goodbyes, and a year of empty seats at the dinner table. But it also a year of heroes. The doctors, nurses, medical students, nursing students, EMTs, firefighters, and ordinary Americans who have placed their health in the hands of God to save others. Heroes who have come to serve the wellbeing of complete strangers. And, all too often, heroes who have given their lives as ransom for untold millions. Heroes like Captain Rocha.

Today, my prayers are with Captain's Rocha's family, his friends, and all his brothers and sisters at Station 18. Let it be preserved in this timeless Record that his loss leaves us with a grief that cannot be weighed and debt that cannot be paid. His legacy lives on in the countless lives he touched and saved. So, Madam Speaker, let us honor Captain Rocha. Let us remember the light he brought with him everywhere he went. And, whatever we do in Congress today, tomorrow, next week, next year let the story of Captain Rocha sit at my chair in this Chamber. Let the stories of his fallen brothers, Billy Birmingham and Scott Davidson, walk with me through these halls. Let those stories remind us all that we have a part to play. Let them remind us of our duty to serve.

In the coming days, flags across my state will fly at half-staff to honor Captain Rocha, dutiful Americans will wear masks and adhere to social distancing, and first responders will wake up again and again to walk into a weary nightmare that we have the power to make less dark. Captain Rocha gave his life to save others. We can never repay that debt. But it is our duty to try.

MARTHA GRACE FIELDS, CONGRESSIONAL AWARD SILVER MEDALIST

HON. MICHAEL T. MCCAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 4, 2020

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding work of Martha Grace Fields. Martha is an exceptional young woman who was recently announced as a Silver Medalist for the Congressional Award, one of the highest honors presented to America's youth. The Congressional Award Foundation was created to recognize initiative, service, and achievement in young people. Martha has demonstrated the core components of this award through her servant heart and unmatched work ethic. She gave back to her local community by completing over two-hundred hours of public service. Beyond her service to others, she put in hundreds of hours of personal development by competing on her high school swim team and enrolling in numerous leadership courses and seminars. Additionally, Martha was one of the first females to receive the highest honor in Boy Scouts, the rank of Eagle Scout. Simultaneously, she received the highest rank in the Sea Scouts, Quartermaster. Martha's continued hard work has not gone unnoticed, and I am proud to see her receive the recognition she deserves. I would like to congratulate Martha for her impressive achievements at such a young age and I look forward to seeing her continued success and leadership.

HONORING PRESIDENT JERRY
RAWLINGS OF GHANA

HON. BARBARA LEE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, December 4, 2020

Ms. LEE of California. Madam Speaker, today we honor the extraordinary life and career of Jerry Rawlings, the former President of Ghana.

He was born on June 22, 1947 in Accra, Ghana to his loving mother Victoria Agbotuni. He received his education from the Achimota Secondary School, graduating in 1966 with his general education certification. While in school he became well known for his love of Polo and his willingness to speak out about injustice.

In 1967 he enlisted in the Ghanaian Air Force and became a flight cadet. Shortly afterward, he was selected to attend the Ghana Military Academy and Training School. Upon completing his training in 1969 he was awarded the "Speed Bird Trophy" acknowledging his top ranking status in flying and airmanship. Nine years later he earned the rank Flight-Lieutenant.

During his career in the military, he began to observe how corruption, privilege, and injustice impact soldiers and the people they are sworn to protect.

His concerns about Ghana's future led him to become an outspoken critic of the corruption and mismanagement he saw from the country's military leaders and called for more attention to the plight of Ghana's poor.